

APPROVED: MEETING NO. 24-93

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 20-93

May 24, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on May 24, 1993, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember David Robbins

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Paula Jewell, and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. The City had been urging State Highway Administration for some time to make changes in the signage at Maryland and Great Falls Road. Mr. Romer reported that these attempts were successful and State Highway has agreed to remove the signage as well as to institute a review of entire situation in 2 years just before Julius West School reopened.
2. On May 23rd, the City held a successful rabies clinic; over 200 animals were processed through this program.
3. The City has received notification from Government Finance Officers Association that Rockville will receive the Certificate For Excellence in financial reporting; this is

Meeting No. 20-93

2

May 24, 1993

the most prestigious honor for financial reporting and the City is pleased to have been a recipient of the award from year to year.

Re: Certificate recognizing  
Dr. James A. Coles on his  
retirement after 22 years  
of service to education.

Councilmember Coyle introduced Dr. James Coles and his wife Betty. Mr. Coyle noted that Dr. Coles has served as a role model for youths for the past 22 years, and he presented Dr. Coles with a certificate recognizing his retirement after 22 years of service with the school system.

Re: Certificate recognizing  
Raymond J. DeBalso on  
his retirement as Principal  
of Rockville High School  
after 33 years of dedicated  
service.

Councilmember Robbins noted that Ray DeBalso was retiring from Rockville High School after 33 years. He said that Mr. DeBalso's career spanned back to his own career when he worked with the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Mr. Robbins also noted that Mr. DeBalso had the good fortune of serving as Principal of two schools in City of Rockville--Julius West Middle School and Rockville High School.

Mr. DeBalso said the City of Rockville provided many services to City schools and he thanked the Mayor and Council for their support over the years.

Meeting No. 20-93

3

May 24, 1993

Re: Certificate of Appreciation to Studebaker's Nightclub in recognition of their donation of a video camera to the Rockville Police Department to assist in the apprehension and prosecution of drunk drivers.

Councilmember Marrinan said Studebaker's donation was a good example of the cooperation between public and private organizations and he was glad to recognize Studebaker's Nightclub for its donation.

Peter Repass, speaking on behalf of Studebaker's, said they were happy to give back to the community what the City and Police Department haven given to them.

Re: Proclamation recognizing the week of June 6-12, 1993 as **SAFE BOATING WEEK.**

Proclamation No. 8-93

By unanimous vote of the Mayor and Council, the week of June 6-12, 1993 was declared "Safe Boating Week" in Rockville. Councilmember Krasnow read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in Proclamation File No. 7 of the Mayor and Council. Members of the Rockville Power Squadron accepted the Proclamation.

Re: Citizens Forum

1. Steven Van Grack commented on the process the Mayor and Council took to reach a decision on the proposed agreement between the City of Rockville and RCI. Mr. Van

Meeting No. 20-93

4

May 24, 1993

Grack commented that there was no in-depth information about the proposal and the Mayor and Council had not listened to what the people have to say about the proposal. He asked the Mayor and Council to think about three concepts: stop and think about the speed in which the project is being done; (2) consider that the market data showed there was a lack of demand for office space in downtown Rockville; and (3) if office space was built, the City would have failed because he did not believe the people of Rockville wanted office space of that size in downtown Rockville.

2. Stan Klein, 7 Lorre Court, read a statement of the Alliance of Rockville Citizens Executive Committee who support the concept of tearing down the Rockville Mall and starting over, and asking the Mayor and Council to change the precedence to getting the agreement finished until all concerns had been addressed. Mr. Klein delivered his statement, the full text is marked as Exhibit No. 46, and can be found in the 1993 RCI File of the Mayor and Council.

3. Dr. Donald Cordes, Vice President for the Technical Education Center, Inc., said the Center was strongly opposed to the destruction of Phase II of the Mall. Dr. Cordes said that the Phase II tenants had been treated unjustly and unfairly; RCI had encouraged the tenants to stay in Phase II and had promised to work with them. However, RCI had not kept them informed and a series of harassment activities have been implemented by RCI. Dr. Cordes stated that the school had seen a 30% reduction in enrollment and a decrease in business.

4. Randy Slovic, Co-chair of Sierra Club, said one of the Sierra Club's big concerns was air pollution and the use of the subway and mass transportation. She noted that the Club's membership concluded that although the Town Center development plan was headed in the right direction, it lacked a strong residential component and lacked a healthy mix of commercial, residential and office space. Ms. Slovic said the Sierra Club looked forward to working with the

Meeting No. 20-93

5

May 24, 1993

Mayor and Council to improve the plan and ensure its success.

4. Sima Osdoby said she moved to Rockville 13 years ago because of its ideal location to raise a family and enjoy a sense of community. Ms. Osdoby said she wanted very much for the Town Center to succeed and she echoed the concerns expressed by civic leaders in the community that the Mayor and Council rethink the process.

5. John Hodges, student at the Technical Education Center commented that his son frequented the Rockville Center theater which he felt was a very safe place to go.

6. Bill Meyer, Leverton Road, commented that the City would have been well served if half the people present this evening had turned out for the previous public hearings held by the Mayor and Council. Mr. Meyer said he presumed that the comments heard at the public meetings would be considered by staff and incorporated in the plans. Mr. Meyer said he felt the Mayor and Council had made a great effort to involve the public and he was sorry that more people had not come out and gotten involved in the process which the Council had opened up.

7. Jerome Loux, of the Rockville Planning Commission, addressed one issue of proposed RCI Agreement that he said gave him cause for concern. Mr. Loux said he was a strong proponent for including in the document, a creditable value of the property known as Lot #7, but he felt the option provision, Section 5.06.c(i),(ii),(iii), should be removed in its entirety. Mr. Loux read his statement and passed his written comments along to the City Clerk. The full text of Mr. Loux's comments is marked as Exhibit #50 and can be found in the 1993 RCI File of the Mayor and Council.

8. Dr. James Moone, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), commented that the SCLC saw an urgent need for a convention/conference

Meeting No. 20-93

6

May 24, 1993

center in Rockville that could accommodate over 1,000 people. He said the City was missing a great opportunity by not having one. Dr. Moone suggested that the planners for the development project go back to the "drawing board" and look at the feasibility of a facility that would seat at least 1,000 people.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Krasnow, duly seconded, the minutes of Meeting No. 14-93 (May 3, 1993) were approved with a correction noted on page 2 to add language that the Council "encouraged RSI to establish a policy which would establish a target for a reserve fund allowing any excess revenue to be used in the current period".

Upon motion of Councilmember Coyle, duly seconded, with Mayor Duncan abstaining as he was not present at the meeting, the minutes of Meeting No. 15-93 (May 4, 1993) were approved as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded, the minutes of Meeting No. 16-93 (May 6, 1993) were approved, as written.

Re: Consent Agenda

Upon motion of Councilmember Robbins, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda item was approved:

Approval of option year for the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract (12-93) to Hawkins Electric Company, in the amount of \$59,000.

Meeting No. 20-93

7

May 24, 1993

The City's annual contract for traffic signal maintenance services is renewable for an optional second year. This extension would be funded primarily from the FY 1994 Traffic Operations budget, and also from the "Traffic Signal Upgrade" CIP project.

Re: Discussion and instructions to staff - Proposed Transition and Development Agreement between the City and Rockville Center, Inc. This agreement sets forth the relationship between the City and RCI for the demolition of portions of Rockville Metro Center and construction of new parking facilities, streets, and other infrastructure in the Town Center.

The record for the public hearing on this agreement has closed.

Mr. Romer gave an overview of significant events to date. He pointed out that since the Rockville Mall project was first presented completely and publicly on January 11, 1993, there had been many meetings that preceded the February 23rd public hearing on the project. Mr. Romer noted that in the ensuing weeks since January 11th, a number of individual and informative presentations had taken place with groups such as the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and the County Department of Economic Development. The City also made presentations to various civic and neighborhood groups. Mr. Romer said that the City was also active in attempting to garner funding from the County.

Mr. Romer highlighted the issues that were identified by the community in recent weeks and had been resolved. Mr. Romer noted that there were still fundamental issues raised by the City's boards and commissions and the community. He said that staff and the Mayor and Council were still working on some of the fundamental issues.

Meeting No. 20-93

8

May 24, 1993

Mayor Duncan reaffirmed Mr. Romer's comments that there were still some outstanding issues. He noted that the Mayor and Council would be adjourning to Executive Session at the end of this meeting to discuss these issues.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

Councilmember Krasnow noted there had been a course change for the Rockville 10K Run. The course would be taken off of Rockville Pike and put through residential Rockville. Mrs. Krasnow questioned whether comments had been solicited from persons in those residential areas.

Recreation and Parks Director, Burt Hall, responded that the route had been reviewed and endorsed by the Recreation and Parks Board. Mr. Hall also said that the Police Department has reviewed the route and provided some comments; the next step would be to talk to the residents in the neighborhoods.

Re: New Business

1. Councilmember Krasnow commented that she attended the Leadership Montgomery awards dinner on Saturday; she congratulated Police Chief Treschuk on successfully completing the Leadership Montgomery course. Mrs. Krasnow also noted that Galo Correa of Hispanics United for Rockville received the first Outstanding Leader Award.

2. Mayor Duncan announced that on May 26, 1993, at 7:00 p.m., the Mayor and Council were meeting with representatives of the Rockville Chamber and Peerless Rockville to discuss the proposed agreement between the City and RCI.

3. Mayor Duncan commented on his recent trip to Germany and Mayenne,



Meeting No. 20-93

9

May 24, 1993

France. He said that Mayenne representatives had expressed an interest in becoming a Sister City with Rockville. Mayor Duncan noted that Pinneberg's and Mayenne's Mayors were planning trips to Rockville and he expressed hope of continuing to strengthen those relationships. Mayor Duncan also commented that both Cities were trying to organize the Rockville trip in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

Re: Adjournment to Executive Session.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m., to reconvene immediately in Executive Session, pursuant to Section 10-508(a)(4) and (7) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to consider a proposal for a business to remain and expand in the City and to obtain legal advice from counsel regarding the proposal.